Listing of Claims:

1. - 11. (canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A safety device for a rotation rate sensor, comprising a sensor element and circuits including a function section, a checking section and a monitoring section, the function section including functional components supporting a function of the sensor element and producing a sensor output signal, the checking section including checking components designed for continuous checking of the functional components, and the monitoring section comprising monitoring components designed for monitoring the checking components at least once during one operating cycle, the monitoring components comprising a clock detector component monitoring a clock of a microcomputer contained in the checking section, a watchdog circuit monitoring the microcomputer and a memory testing device for testing memories within the checking section.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the checking components measure values in the function section and compare the measured values with limit values.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the checking components measure the sensor output signal and ~~to~~ compare the measured sensor output signal with limit values.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the checking components comprise a test injector producing and supplying test signals to the functional components, the checking components testing the functional components and measuring a reaction of the functional components to the test signals.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the function section comprises digital components and analog components, the checking components accessing registers of the digital components and measuring analog signals at the analog components.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the checking section includes checking analog components and at least one analog/digital converter.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the monitoring components are designed essentially to monitor digital checking components.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein components in the function section, the checking section, and the monitoring section are formed by an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) comprising gate circuits, and wherein each of the gate circuits in the application-specific integrated circuit is associated with only one of the function section, the checking section, and the monitoring section.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the sensor element is a vibration gyro generating an analog output signal.